



Final Report

Department of Veterans Affairs and Brentwood School

**Performance Audit of the Brentwood School
Compliance with the Lease Agreement for
Certain Real Property and Facilities at the West
Los Angeles VA Campus (Year 2)**

August 2019

Submitted by:

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Attachment – BWS Management Response

A. Executive Summary

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Brentwood School (BWS or Lessee) contracted with BCA Watson Rice LLP (BCAWR) to conduct an audit of BWS's performance of its obligations under a lease agreement (Lease) between the BWS and the VA. The audit period was from November 1, 2017 through October 31, 2018, which is Year 2 of the Agreement. The Lease was executed in recognition of the VA's goal to revitalize the VA's West Los Angeles Campus into a welcoming and vibrant community for Veterans of the Greater Los Angeles area, and help end Veteran homelessness in Greater Los Angeles.

The primary objective of the audit was to assess and report on the Lessee's compliance with key obligations under the Lease regarding certain property, facilities and athletic fields on the VA's West Los Angeles Campus. These obligations included monetary rent consideration, educational activities and learning projects, insurance coverage, and in-kind consideration (both monetary and non-monetary) comprised of four (4) primary components. The audit also included reaching out to Veterans' groups and other key stakeholders to solicit views and opinions regarding the Lessee's obligations under the Lease.

Based on our audit, we found that BWS complied with its key obligations under the Lease. BWS paid its monthly rents of \$70,833.33 per month (\$850,000 annually) and provided the VA with annual actual in-kind consideration valued at \$1,049,523 which exceeds the in-kind consideration annual value of \$918,000 specified in the Lease.

BWS also maintained required insurance coverage and provided education assistance and counseling in accordance with the Lease terms and requirements.

In addition to the in-kind consideration provided by BWS, BWS also employed seven Veterans during the audit period. Collectively, these seven Veterans earned \$250,888 in wages during the audit period.

Brentwood School Management Response

In response to the audit, BWS management offered additional information and insight about the tangible impact of their partnership with the VA. The additional information provided by BWS is included as an attachment to this report.



August 2019

B. Background

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has jurisdiction and control of certain real property and facilities known as the West Los Angeles Campus (Property), in Los Angeles, California which provides services and benefits to the nation's Veterans. As a result of *the Valentini v. McDonald* litigation, the VA and BWS entered into a lease agreement effective as of November 4, 2016 (Lease), for the lease of certain premises comprised of athletic fields, complex, and facilities located on the 22.06 Acre Site of the Property in the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

Valentini v. McDonald was a class action lawsuit against the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald and the director of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System on behalf of homeless and disabled veterans. The lawsuit, filed in 2011 contended that the VA benefits programs discriminates against Veterans who are homeless as a result of their severe mental disabilities because they cannot access the medical, mental health and other services to which they are entitled.

In January 2015, the VA Secretary and attorneys representing homeless veterans in Los Angeles announced an agreement to lead the launch of a new master plan for the West Los Angeles VA Campus to serve veterans in need. Under the agreement, the Secretary and plaintiffs' representatives were to develop a written plan to help end veteran homelessness in the Greater Los Angeles area. The plan was to focus on serving Veterans, particularly homeless Veterans, women Veterans, aging Veterans and Veterans that are severely disabled. The plan was to include input from the Veterans' community and other stakeholders, including the local community.

Part of the plan included the parties entering into the Lease regarding the Property in recognition of the VA's goal to revitalize the Property into a welcoming and vibrant community for Veterans of the Greater Los Angeles area, and help end veteran homelessness in Greater Los Angeles. Under the Lease, the Lessee will provide to VA use of the Property for the benefit of Veterans and their families including, without limitation, services and programs that principally benefit Veterans and their families for the following purposes: the promotion of health and wellness; education; vocational training, skills building or other training related to employment; and peer activities, socialization or physical recreation. Access to the facilities shall be prioritized based on the order of chronically homeless, aging, and female Veterans.

C. Objectives, Scope and Methodology

The audit period was from November 1, 2017 through October 31, 2018, which is Year 2 of the Agreement. The primary objective of the audit was to assess and report on the Lessee's performance with respect to compliance with key obligations under the Lease regarding the Property and its use.

The scope of the audit included evaluating the Lessee's compliance with the following key Lease requirements:

- **Annual Rent** - In exchange for BWS' continued use of the athletic fields, complex, and facilities located on the Property, BWS shall pay annual rent to VA in the amount of \$850,000.00 in equal monthly cash installments (currently, \$70,833.33).
- **Insurance Coverage**— BWS shall maintain property, liability and workers compensation insurance in accordance with the Lease.
- **In-Kind Consideration** - BWS shall provide VA with annual in-kind consideration valued at \$918,000.00/year based on the total appraisal value of \$1.76 million less the \$850,000 paid in rent. The annual in-kind consideration agreed upon by VA and BWS is comprised of the following four (4) primary components:
 - **Category A** – Operation, maintenance, and upkeep of the Property;
 - **Category B** – Special programs and events benefitting Veterans and their families (the "Category B Consideration");
 - **Category C** – Capital costs and improvements relating to activities on the 22.06 Acre Site to benefit Veterans and their families; and
 - **Category D** — Athletic, recreational, and educational programs and activities to benefit Veterans and their families (the "Category D Consideration").

It must be noted that per the lease agreement Attachment A – Value of Annual In-Kind Consideration, the estimated value of In-Kind Consideration for each category is designed to be flexible and can be adjusted based on the needs and preferences of Veterans. Moreover, the allocation of In-Kind Consideration funding will be reviewed by VA and BWS on a quarterly basis.

To accomplish the audit objectives, our approach and methodology included the following:

1. Reviewed and analyzed the Lease Agreement to obtain an understanding of the purpose of the Agreement and the BWS's obligations under the Agreement.
2. Discussed with VA and BWS representatives the scope, timing and the information needed for the audit.

3. Obtained Evidence of Property Insurance document and Certificate of Liability Insurance for the Property.
4. Obtained and reviewed a list of rents paid including copies of supporting rent checks payable to VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care to determine whether BWS complied with the Lease rent terms and conditions.
5. To determine whether BWS complied with its obligations regarding the operation, maintenance and upkeep of the property, we obtained and reviewed BWS general ledger, staff payroll records, and utility bills
6. To determine whether BWS complied with its obligations to initiate and host special programs, activities and events benefitting Veterans and their families, we obtained and reviewed flyers, notifications, and announcements for activities and events, photos of events and activities, email correspondence, and BWS general ledger data and copies of vendor invoices.
7. To determine whether BWS complied with its obligations to make capital improvements on the Property relating to activities to benefit Veterans and their families, we requested information regarding capital improvements during the audit period and we found that there were none.
8. To determine whether BWS complied with its obligations to offer and host athletic, recreational, and educational programs and activities to benefit Veterans and their families including transportation services, we obtained and reviewed:
 - Announcements and emails concerning for events and activities,
 - Photos of events and activities
 - Educational and recreational sign-up forms, on-line registrations, and confirmations. (Veteran Center for Recreation and Education)
 - BWS General ledger records, vendor invoices and payroll records
 - Athletic event schedules for the VA/BWS recreational facilities
 - Scholarship documentation (including student lists, applications, award letters, and enrollment agreement and costs)
 - Day of Beauty sign-ups and survey
 - Lists of volunteer sign-ups and Stand Down vendors
9. Sought feedback and input from stakeholders including the California congressional delegation, the former Plaintiffs in the Valentini v. McDonald lawsuit, Veteran Service Organizations, and Veterans.

D. Detailed Audit Results

Based on our audit of BWS's performance regarding compliance with its obligations under the Lease, we found that BWS fully complied with its obligations regarding:

- Annual rental consideration
- Adequate insurance coverage
- The operation, maintenance, and upkeep of the property
- Special programs and events benefitting Veterans and their families
- Capital costs and improvements relating to activities on the Property to benefit Veterans and their families (if applicable)
- Athletic, recreational, and educational programs and activities to benefit Veterans and their families

Annual Rent

Based on our audit, we verified that BWS paid the required monthly rents of \$70,833.33 per month (\$850,000 annually) in accordance with the terms of the Lease.

Insurance Coverage

Based on our audit, we verified that BWS maintained adequate insurance coverage in accordance with the terms and requirements of the Lease.

In-Kind Consideration

The Lease states “**BWS shall** also provide VA with annual in-kind consideration valued at \$918,000/year, which amount shall be subject to increase as provided in accordance with Paragraph I.” We found that BWS provided actual in-kind consideration for Year 2 valued at \$1,049,523, which is \$131,523 more than the in-kind consideration annual value of \$918,000 specified in the Lease.

The categories of in-kind consideration (except Category C) include separate components with individual estimated values and standards of valuation for each component. The categories are designed to be a flexible menu of options that can be adjusted based on the needs and preferences of Veterans. The in-kind offerings, programs, opportunities and activities are all part of the Veterans Center for Recreation and Education (VCRE) at BWS.

For comparison purposes, the standards of valuation and estimated values are detailed in the schedule below along with the audited value of actual in-kind consideration provided by BWS. In summary, BWS met the annual in-kind consideration amount of \$918,000/year as discussed in detail above.

**Schedule of In-Kind Consideration Provided by BWS
For the Period November 1, 2017 thru October 31, 2018 (Year 2)**

	Estimated Value of In-Kind Consideration per Exhibit D of Lease Agreement	Audited Actual In-Kind Consideration Provided
Category A -Operations, Maintenance & Upkeep		
Paragraph 3 Annual cost for routine upkeep of the Property. For example, landscaping, maintenance, custodial, irrigation, and utilities for athletic fields, track, tennis courts, etc.	\$170, 587	\$247,427
Paragraph 4 Repair and replacement costs related to facility refurbishment and minor enhancements for the property, physical structures, grounds, lighting, and equipment on the Property.	\$348,000	\$323,200
Category B - Special Programs and Events Benefiting Veterans and Families		
Paragraph 5 Use of Property by VA, including qualified Veteran Services Organizations in coordination with VA, for special Veterans events such as Softball games, movie nights, concerts, BBQs, etc.	\$15,000	\$10,651
Paragraph 6 BWS initiated and hosted activities, opportunities, and events that include Veterans and their families such as movie screenings, special speakers, picnics or BBQs, among other options.	\$30,000	\$51,676
Category C - Capital Costs and Improvements		
Paragraph 7 Future improvements relating to activities on the Property and benefiting Veterans and their families.	TBD	

Category D - Athletic and Educational Programs and Activities to Benefit Veterans and Their Families		
Paragraph 8 BWS to conduct Veteran Donation Drives within the school community centered around Veterans Day, Memorial Day, or other occasions relevant to the BWS curriculum. Collected items may include clothes, food, furniture, wheelchairs, etc.	No cost to VA	School Supplies Drive Thanksgiving Food Drive Holiday Toy Drive Spring Toiletries Drive Sock Drive
Paragraph 9 Management, coordination, communication, promotion, and organization of activities related to VCARE, including staffing needs such as, security, lifeguards, coaches, administrative support, etc.	\$223,462	\$227,751
Paragraph 10 BWS to supply athletic equipment and gear for use by Veterans and their Families during activities on the Property.	\$2,500	\$4,000
Paragraph 11 BWS to offer educational services to Veterans and their families including but not limited to courses, seminars, workshops, and clinics. Examples of offerings could include college counseling, General Equivalency Diploma (GED) preparation, adult education courses, sports clinics, nutrition seminars, computer literacy, and/or access to rehearsal or learning spaces.	\$39,228	\$24,561
Paragraph 12 Transportation services, including cost of vehicle(s) and driver(s), that facilitate access to opportunities offered on the Property.	\$82,458	\$916
Paragraph 13 Scholarships- Summer at BWS & academic scholarships based on merit. Includes not less than 120 scholarship spots for Summer.	\$164,000	\$106,685

Paragraphs 14 & 15 Website development and ongoing maintenance/support to help communicate, coordinate, and facilitate access to offerings on the Property.	\$60,000	\$52,656
BWS student activities and service learning projects directly benefitting Veterans.	<i>TBD</i>	Invaluable and at no cost to VA
TOTALS	\$1,135,235	\$1,049,523

Below we provide detailed explanations of the in-kind consideration provided by BWS and the associated audited value of the in-kind consideration.

Category A

- Paragraph 3 - BWS provided \$247,427 of in-kind consideration for landscaping and maintenance of the property including \$196,201 in payroll costs and \$51,226 in irrigation and utilities expenses.
- Paragraph 4 - BWS provided \$323,200 of in-kind consideration which included \$298,000 for property maintenance and \$25,200 for engaging a third party auditor to evaluate program effectiveness.

Category B

- Paragraph 5 - BWS provided \$10,651 of in-kind consideration for special programs and events which included costs for staging and parking for the Veteran workers for the Shakespeare play during performances, an electronic piano for residents of Building 209, printing of CERS informational brochures for Veterans and service providers, and Heroes Movement classes.
- Paragraph 6 - BWS provided \$51,676 of in-kind consideration which included Thanksgiving Dinner for the residents of building 209, meals, snacks, and supplies for the VA Greater Los Angeles Stand Down, tickets to performing arts events at Brentwood School, tickets to the Young Women's Conference at Brentwood School, hosting the improv theater production for New Directions, a Veteran's Day Assembly, and a Day of Beauty for female Veterans.

Category C

Paragraph 7 – There were no capital improvements credited in this audit period.

Category D

- Paragraph 9 - BWS provided \$227,751 of in-kind consideration for staffing and personnel costs associated with the management, coordination, promotion, safety, security, and organization of activities related to the VCRE (Veterans Center for Recreation and Education).

- Paragraph 10 - BWS provided \$4,000 of in-kind consideration for supplies and athletic programs.
- Paragraph 11 - BWS provided \$24,561 of in-kind consideration for education services and counseling.
- Paragraph 12 - BWS provided \$916 of in-kind consideration for transportation services.
- Paragraph 13 - BWS provided \$106,685 of in-kind consideration for 129 scholarships. This includes a full year scholarship for one student who is the daughter of a Veteran. The financial assistance value for this single scholarship was \$40,355. An additional \$66,330 was for 128 weekly scholarships and extended care.
- Paragraphs 14 and 15 - BWS provided \$52,656 of in-kind consideration for video production and photography as well as web and on-line registration and support for events and activities related to VCRE and the BWS/VA partnership agreement.

In addition to providing the in-kind consideration described above, BWS also employed seven Veterans during the audit period. Collectively these employees earned wages of \$250,888 during the audit period.

Feedback from Stakeholders and Veteran Groups

We inquired and received feedback from stakeholders and Veteran groups regarding the Lessee's compliance with its obligations under the Lease and various aspects of the Property and its uses. Specific topics identified in the inquiries included access to the Veterans Center for Education & Recreational facilities on the Property, awareness of services offered under Lease, classes and clinics for Veterans, employment training/certifications, Day of Beauty event, scholarships for children and grandchildren of Veterans, housing, healthcare, and women's services.

We emailed a survey to over 200 stakeholders, Veterans and Veteran groups and received 22 responses. Below we summarize the results of the responses for each survey question.

1. Veteran or Veteran family member?

Yes	17	94%
No	1	6%
	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 100%

2. Veteran receiving VA services on the West LA Campus?

Yes	10	56%
No	8	44%
	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 100%

3. Veteran Residing in Permanent, Temporary, or Transitional Housing on the West Los Angeles Campus?

Yes	1	6%
No	17	94%
	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 100%

4. Are you aware that Veterans, through the VCRE (Veteran Center for Recreation and Education at Brentwood School) can use Brentwood School recreational facilities that consist of weight training, tennis courts, basketball, softball, volleyball, lap swimming, track, and football field during specific time periods throughout the week upon completion of an online form on the Brentwood School website and verification of Veteran status?

Yes	7	32%
No	15	68%
	<hr/> 22	<hr/> 100%

5. Have you used any facilities through the VCRE (Veteran Center for Recreation and Education at Brentwood School)?

Yes	2	9%
No	20	91%
	<hr/> 22	100%

6. Have you participated in the VA Scholarship to Summer at Brentwood program for children and grandchildren of Veterans?

Yes	9	41%
No	13	59%
	<hr/> 22	100%

If, yes, how satisfied were you with the quality of activities and events?

Very Satisfied	7	77.8%
Satisfied	2	22.2%
Somewhat Satisfied	0	0.0%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	0	0.0%
Dissatisfied	0	0.0%
	<hr/> 9	100%

7. Would you be interested in afterschool childcare services if available?

Yes	8	38%
No	13	62%
	<hr/> 21	100%

8. Have you participated in the annual Day of Beauty offered by Brentwood School?

Yes	2	10%
No	19	90%
	<hr/> 21	100%

If, yes, how satisfied were you with the quality of the day?

Very Satisfied	2	100.0%
Satisfied	0	0.0%
Somewhat Satisfied	0	0.0%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	0	0.0%
Dissatisfied	0	0.0%
	<hr/> 2	100%

9. Brentwood School is an organizing partner at the Stand Down. Which services have you taken advantage of at the Stand Down?

Housing	0	0.0%
Healthcare	0	0.0%
Women's Services	1	14.3%
Clothing	3	42.9%
Other	3	42.9%
	<hr/> 7	100%

10. Are you interested in the following college preparatory classes/training?

Computer Science	3	21.4%
English	3	21.4%
Math	3	21.4%
General Equivalency Diploma (GED) Courses	2	14.3%
Other	3	21.4%
	<hr/> 14	100%

11. Are you interested in the following recreational classes or seminars?

Music	5	25.0%
Photography	5	25.0%
Creative Writing	4	20.0%
Drawing/Paining	5	25.0%
Other	1	5.0%
	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 100%

12. Are you interested in short-term employment certifications/training (food handling, customer service, landscaping, Etc.)?

Yes	5	28%
No	13	72%
	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 100%

13. Are you interested in any of the following fitness programs?

Yoga	7	25.0%
Meditation/Mindfulness	6	21.4%
Tennis Lessons	6	21.4%
Personnal Training	9	32.1%
	<hr/> 28	<hr/> 100%

In addition to the results detailed above based on "Yes"/"No" and multiple choice questions, we also received certain responses in written narrative form. Requests and areas of interest expressed by the respondents included:

- More convenient and flexible hours for recreation
- Scholarships for the regular school year
- Job placement and job fairs
- Housing and healthcare for Veterans

ATTACHMENT
BRENTWOOD SCHOOL MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

VA/BWS Partnership Summary – Year 2 Audit

YEAR 2 SUMMARY (November 2017 – October 2018)

Lease Obligation	Year 2 Audited Value
\$850,000 (Annual Rent)	\$850,000
+	+
\$918,000 (In-Kind Consideration)	\$1,049,523
=	=
\$1.76M	\$1,899,523

NON-CASH SUMMARY November 2017 - October 2018

Summer Scholarships	140 awarded (506 total to date)
Visits to VCRE	1,168
VCRE Recreational Access	7 days/week 8.5 hours/day average
Student Service Hours	2,244
Donated Items	
Socks	1,582
Toys	200
Toiletries	294 hygiene kits
Meals	1,400
School Supplies	250 notebooks, writing utensils, etc.
Valentine's Gift Bags	200

VA/BWS Partnership Summary – Year 2 Audit

Additional Info:

7 Veterans employed, earning \$250,888 annually

VCRE Registered Members

Year 1	350	includes pilot registrants
Year 2	554	
Year 3	788	as of July 2019

Areas of Impact:

Annual Stand Down

- Coordinate all community volunteers and vendors
- Provide food service for all attendees and volunteers (1200+ meals)
- Musical performances
- Passport and ID photos
- Mobile mammogram screening

Building 209

- Weekly shuttle to Westwood Village for residents
- Thanksgiving dinner for residents
- Holidays gift cards for residents
- Fund monthly social activities for residents
- Supplied all bedroom and bathroom furnishings for every unit

Community Living Center (Home for Heroes)

- Tile mural in courtyard
- Weekly visits with residents and Sunday Jazz concerts
- Veterans Day Assembly
- Portrait Project

Domiciliary

- Weekly rec therapy visits
- Volleyball tournaments
- Basketball tournaments
- Tennis clinics

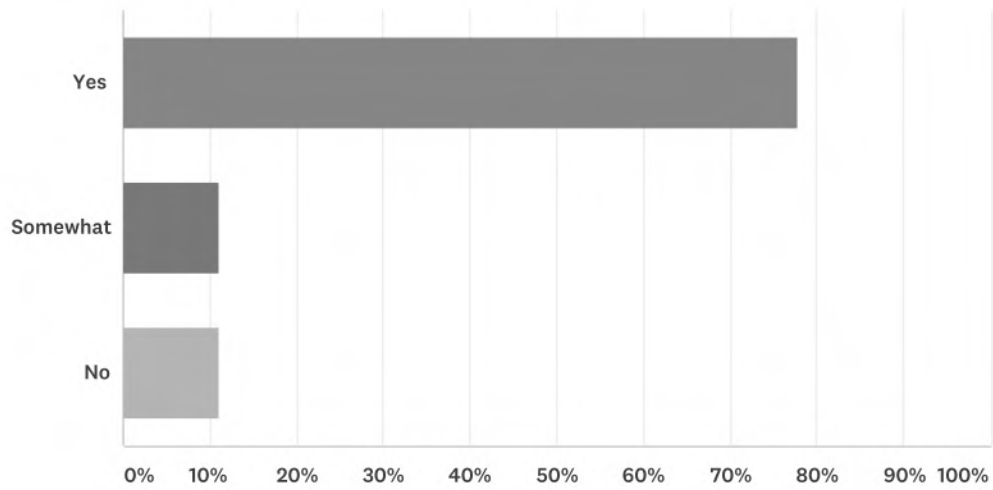
Educational Opportunities

- 120+ annual scholarships to Summer at Brentwood School
- 8 children of Veterans enrolled year-round
- 100 free tickets to Parent University
- 100 free tickets to Hutson Lecture Series
- Free tickets to BWS arts performances and athletic competitions

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	VA Scholarship to Summer at Brentwood 2016 Survey Results													
2	My child attended:	Were you welcomed warmly to the Brentwood School campus?	Why or why not?	How did you hear about Summer at Brentwood?	Did your child receive a VA Scholarship to attend Summer at Brentwood?	Once you received notification of your VA Scholarship, was the course selection process seamless?	There were no course offerings for my child's grade level.	What was your child's favorite part of Summer at Brentwood?	What was your child's least favorite part of Summer at Brentwood?	Please provide any additional specific feedback about the experience at a whole.	Was your family treated with care and respect? Please describe.	Please share details to help us understand.	Did you intend to apply for another VA Scholarship next year?	What courses would you like to see offered?
3	Sports Camp	Yes	Samir really enjoyed his time and like the campus	VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	Yes	Yes	TRUE	Swimming	Food		Yes great staff		Yes	
4	Middle School class	Yes	My daughter loved the camp but attended new veterans scholarship and attending the School is not within our financial means	VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	Yes	Yes	TRUE	Her teacher and making new friends	She was nervous the first day but quickly got over it	I thought everything was really well organized	Yes, I didn't feel that there was any difference between our families and others	She absolutely loved this at camp and said she had never done anything like this before. Wasn't it do much camp in the summer so this was a unique experience	Yes	Either a dance or computer science class might diversify the offerings but she loves art so this was perfect
5	Sports Camp	Yes		VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	Yes	Yes	TRUE	Lunch/food	Getting up early	Excellent service. Alex's grandfather died on the Thursday of the week we attended. I pointed the kids out ahead on how after I dropped them off. Johnathon was very helpful in getting my children. A few days later, he followed up with an email expressing condolences. I appreciated my kids being around someone who clearly cared about them and wanted to be around them. Please see my response on Alex's survey. We loved the camp.	Yes absolutely	Very organized well put together	Yes	Minor all rounding
6	Lower or K Camp	Yes	It is really out of our budget	VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	Yes	Yes	TRUE	The food. Alex had a blast with everything, but he really liked the food.			Very much so. Alex wanted to hang out at a dance studio when he realized he was the only boy. Johnathon was super supportive and helpful. He said to Alex "Well, you tried it, didn't you? So you're making an informed decision." (Johnathon is awesome, btw)		Yes	
7	Lower or K Camp	Yes	Out of our budget	VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	Yes	Yes	TRUE	Yoga			Yes, see my response on Alex's survey.		Yes	
8	Sports Camp	Yes		VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	Yes	Yes	TRUE	Connecting with old friends	Only having one week		Definitely	Truly felt like we were part of community and staff was very quick to respond to any queries.	Yes	SAT or ACT prep
9	Upper School class	Yes		VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	Yes	Yes	TRUE	Reporting in subject not offered at her school	Short tenure		We were treated with utmost respect and we seem to be regular part of community	Not used to the great customer service and quick response from Brentwood. So	Yes	Music
10	Middle School class	Yes		VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	Yes	Yes	TRUE	Everyone being very nice	Having to be there only one week	THANK YOU!!! for working us Veterans and Families	Yes everyone was helpful and friendly		Yes	Finance and Investing
11	Middle School class	Yes		VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	Yes	Yes	TRUE	Feeling in different location sites	Having to leave after a week	Very grateful for helping us Veterans and Families	Staff very friendly		Yes	Finance and Investing
12	Lower or K Camp	Yes	MY SON LIVE IN ANOTHER CITY AND COMMUTING WOULD BE HARD FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED WITH TRANSPORTATION	VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	Yes	Yes	TRUE	COOKING Decorating Campus of the day	HE ENJOYED ALL HIS CLASSES	WONDERFUL ON 1ST DAY I WENT TO WRONG CAMPUS AND STAFF THERE DIRECTED US TO RIGHT ONE. ONCE WE GOT TO THE RIGHT CAMPUS STAFF WAS WELCOMING AND GUIDES US TO THE DIRECTOR WHO HAD TO EXPLAIN SOME IMPROVAL CONDITIONS AND EMERGENCY CONTINGENCIES REGARDING MY SON'S ALLERGIES. THEY WERE ALL WONDERFUL AND WAS VERY SURPRISE TO SEE THAT THEY HAD A NURSE ON SITE FOR ANY EMERGENCY THAT ARISE. I FELT VERY CONFIDENT LEAVING MY CHILD TO		YOUR GROUPS WERE SMALLER AND STAFF WAS FRIENDLIER AND KNOWLEDGEABLE. THERE WAS NO CONFUSION TO WHERE CHILDREN NEED TO GO. THE PROGRAM WAS WELL ORGANIZE	Yes	ACADEMIC SUPPORT COURSES (READING/WRTIN (SMALL CLUBS) ADDING THEM WITH THE FIN CLASSES WILL HELP THE KIDS KEEP UP ACADEMIC BASIC SKILLS
13	Sports Camp				Yes	No	TRUE		old	great experience. Youth program is organized, instructors are compassionate and everyone worked efficiently to assist with food allergies	Yes	Great year	No	Same
14	Sports Camp	Yes	It's a phenomenal school! My daughter loved everything about your program. I'm glad to finish!	VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	Yes	Yes	TRUE	The campus and instructors	Fear of failure while learning a new sport. There were no healthy options or candy given out after the performance.	My daughter felt inspired and excited. The program was excellent!	Yes, this was initially my concern	The program was handled with kindness and professionalism.	Yes	Home education/University Post degree
15	Lower or K Camp	Yes		VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	Yes	Yes	TRUE	The performance!			Yes	The logistics were the most streamlined and professional	Yes	

Q1 It was easy to RSVP for the event

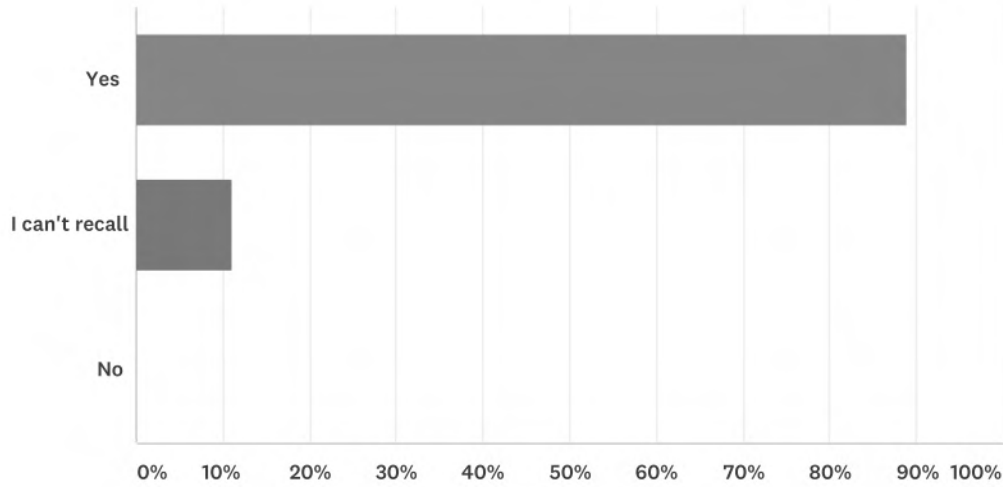
Answered: 9 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	77.78%	7
Somewhat	11.11%	1
No	11.11%	1
TOTAL		9

Q2 I received a confirmation in advance of the event

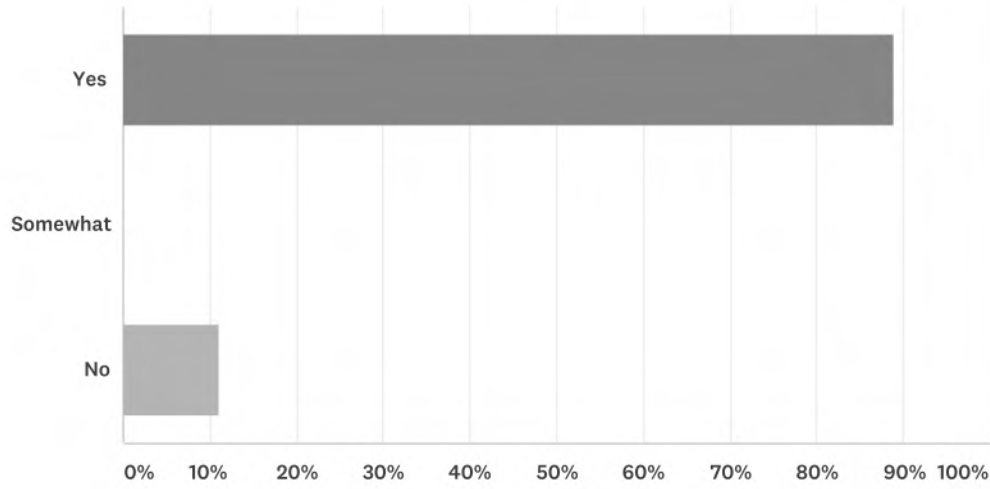
Answered: 9 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	88.89%	8
I can't recall	11.11%	1
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		9

Q3 The transportation provided was helpful

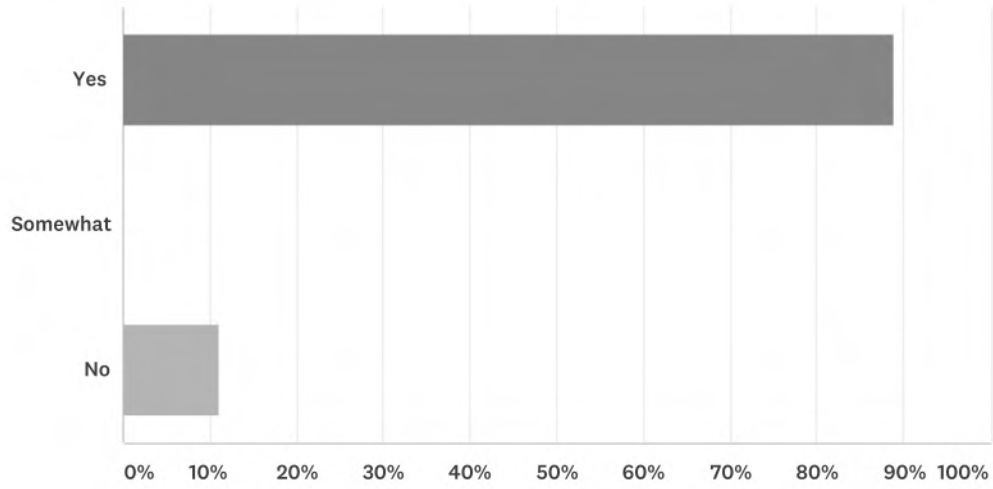
Answered: 9 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	88.89%	8
Somewhat	0.00%	0
No	11.11%	1
TOTAL		9

Q4 I received a warm welcome at the Day of Beauty

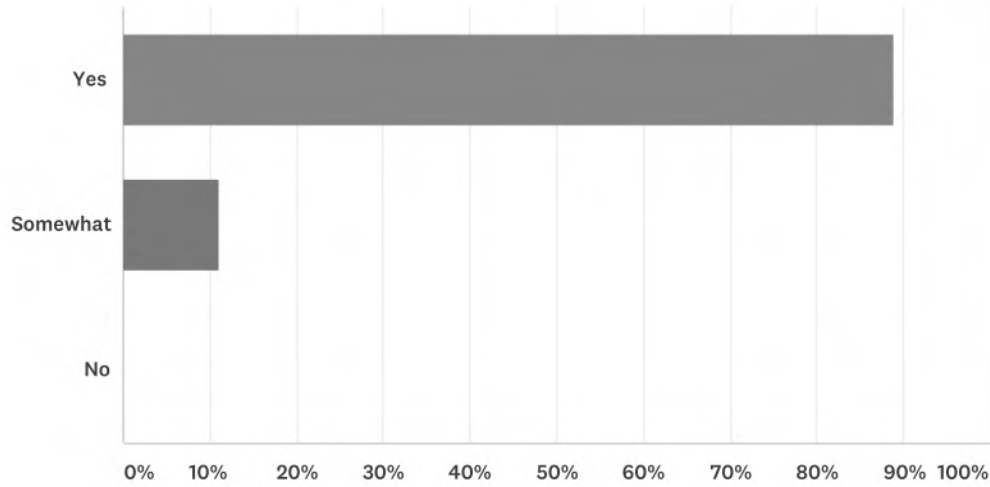
Answered: 9 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	88.89%	8
Somewhat	0.00%	0
No	11.11%	1
TOTAL		9

Q5 I had a positive experience with the makeup artist

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

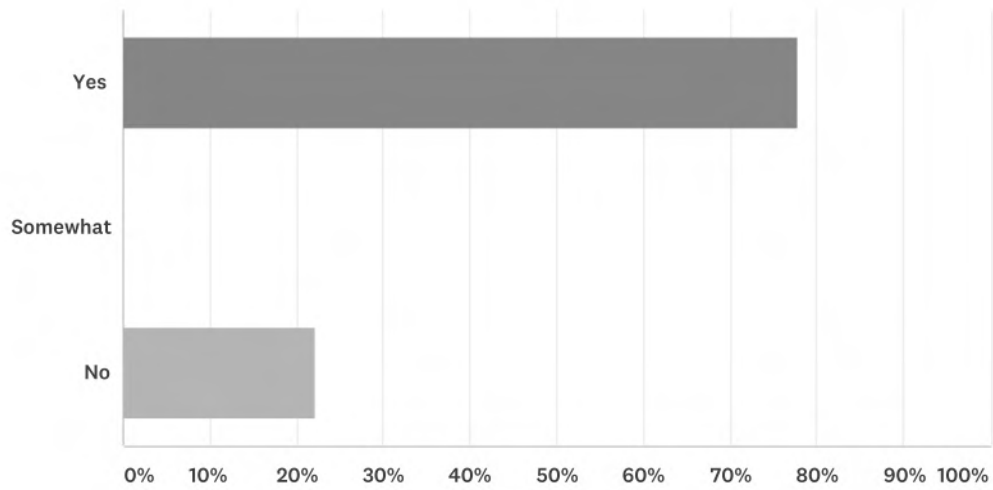


ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		88.89%	8
Somewhat		11.11%	1
No		0.00%	0
TOTAL			9

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	All the make-up and hair stylist were some of the most beautiful women. So Kind!	8/27/2018 5:18 PM

Q6 I had a positive experience with the manicurist

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

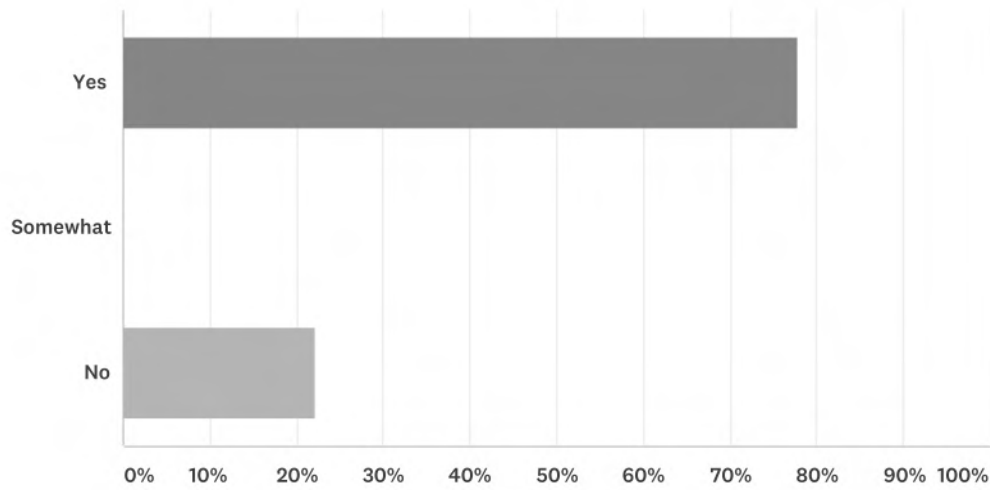


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	77.78%	7
Somewhat	0.00%	0
No	22.22%	2
TOTAL		9

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Really sweet young lady. My nail still look great!	8/27/2018 5:18 PM
2	i skipped manicurist	8/8/2018 4:12 PM

Q7 I had a positive experience with the hairstylist

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

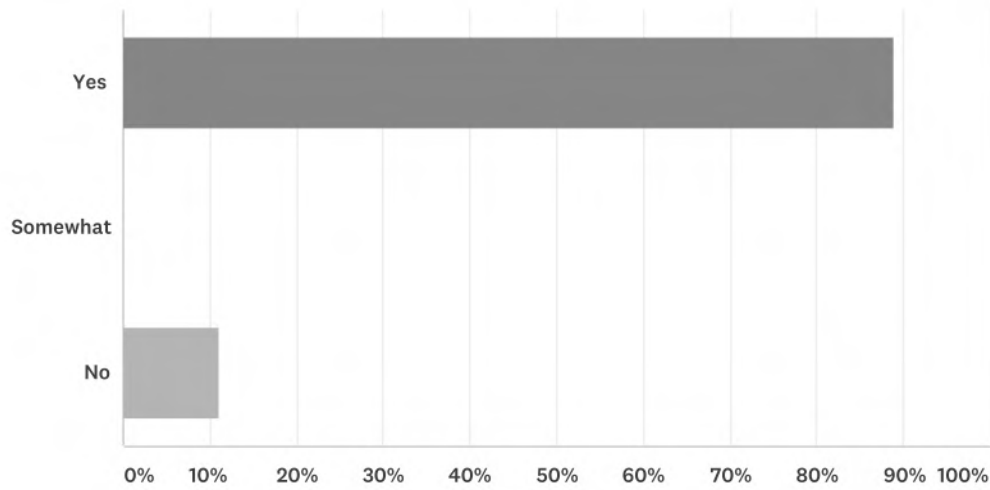


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	77.78%	7
Somewhat	0.00%	0
No	22.22%	2
TOTAL		9

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Deidra Chattams has Magical Hands. They Are Blessed! Loved My Hair!	8/27/2018 5:18 PM
2	skipped hairstylist	8/8/2018 4:12 PM
3	She was great	8/8/2018 3:36 PM

Q8 I had a positive experience with the photographer

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

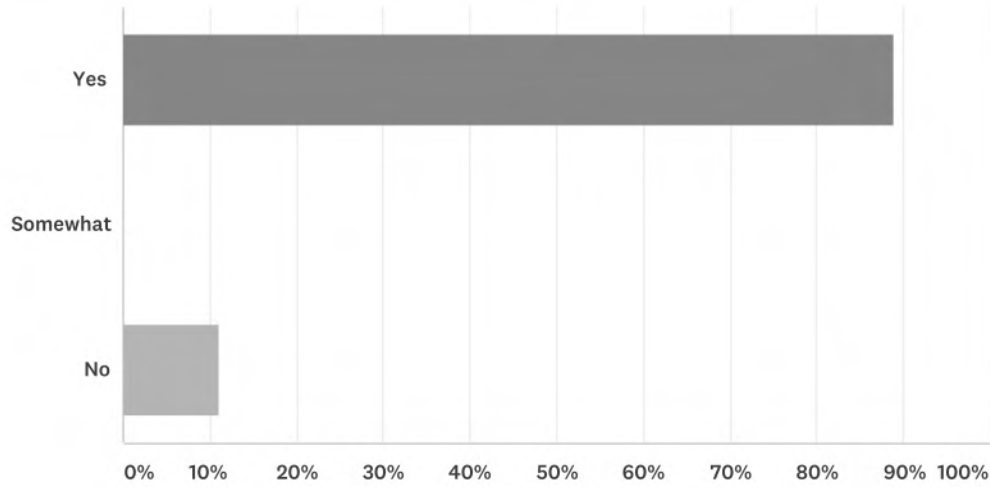


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	88.89%	8
Somewhat	0.00%	0
No	11.11%	1
TOTAL		9

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Those Guys Spirits Are So Sweet! Loved Them!	8/27/2018 5:18 PM

Q9 I had a positive experience with the brunch provider

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		88.89%	8
Somewhat		0.00%	0
No		11.11%	1
TOTAL			9

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	She Had to share with me what some of the finger was. Really patient and kind!	8/27/2018 5:18 PM

Q10 What three words best describe your overall experience at Day of Beauty?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Tranquil, Serene, AWESOME!	8/27/2018 5:18 PM
2	Love, Laughs, Life!!!	8/12/2018 8:14 PM
3	Awesome. Exciting experience just wonderful	8/12/2018 11:49 AM
4	PAMPERED. DELIGHTED. RECOGNIZED.	8/9/2018 8:51 AM
5	Greatful, beautiful thankful	8/8/2018 5:02 PM
6	wonderful. amazing, good energy from everyone	8/8/2018 4:12 PM
7	Beautiful, Beautiful , Beautiful	8/8/2018 3:36 PM
8	Fun, positive and engaging.	8/8/2018 3:12 PM
9	th	8/8/2018 2:29 PM

Q11 Should Brentwood School coordinate this day again in the future? Why/why not?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Absolutely!	8/27/2018 5:18 PM
2	Yes they absolutely should. The staff/students were very knowledgeable about products, and they made the veteran women that were honored that day feel so much laughter and joy and kindness. More of this O-T-J training is definitely encouraged. I was in their shoes once. It will make them more comfortable in real world scenarios.	8/12/2018 8:14 PM
3	Yes yes	8/12/2018 11:49 AM
4	Yes, it was a wonderful experience for women veteran.	8/9/2018 8:51 AM
5	Yes, definitely	8/8/2018 5:02 PM
6	Yes with assistance from VA staff and other Female Vet organizations that service females.	8/8/2018 4:12 PM
7	Yes, because it is a great experience. And most of us did not know we could look this way	8/8/2018 3:36 PM
8	Absolutely !	8/8/2018 3:12 PM
9	sh	8/8/2018 2:29 PM

Q12 Any other additional thoughts you'd like to share?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	There Are Some Very Special People In This World, and I Had The Opportunity to Meet and Greet With Them At This Event. I Felt Like A Queen For The Day!!	8/27/2018 5:18 PM
2	I had a Day of Beauty to remember! What a wonderful experience!	8/12/2018 8:14 PM
3	The staff was very graceful and very courteous and thoughtful	8/12/2018 11:49 AM
4	Thank you	8/9/2018 8:51 AM
5	Adding a pedicure and massage	8/8/2018 5:02 PM
6	I would like to brains storm ideas, and suggestions to engage females with Gennifer.	8/8/2018 4:12 PM
7	I am thankful for the job that they did.	8/8/2018 3:36 PM
8	It was a day of empowerment and supportive , I thank you so much!	8/8/2018 3:12 PM
9	sgf	8/8/2018 2:29 PM



VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

Articles, November 2017 - October 2018

ALL-SCHOOL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

There's No Place Like Home

November 27, 2017

by Gennifer Yoshimaru, Assistant Head of School

Brentwood School parents of students in every grade know that service learning is an integral part of our educational experience in all three divisions. In fact, the “season of giving” has officially begun and you will soon be asked to contribute to our annual Thanksgiving Food (and Turkey) Drive—please help! From time to time, there are also service learning opportunities available just for Brentwood employees and other adults in our community. Last Friday was the culmination of one such opportunity: the 3rd Annual VA Stand Down at the West Los Angeles campus, our neighbor to the south.

Stand Downs are collaborative events, coordinated between local VA Medical Centers, other government agencies, and community-based homeless service providers to provide supplies and services to homeless Veterans. Last Friday's event literally took a village to plan and execute—Village for Vets, WLA VA, and Brentwood School partnered to lead the planning and execution of the event.

With close to 5,000 homeless Veterans in Los Angeles County, many of them chronically homeless, the centralized access to the range of resources available at Stand Downs can bring desperately needed relief to a large number of Vets in the span of just one day. And, that is exactly what happened last week with the assistance of more than 300 community volunteers, over 100 of them Brentwood School employees and parents.

According to WLA VA records, more than 800 Veterans came for help—food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, mental health resources, pet care, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, legal services, and more. It was a wonderful day. An all-employee drive for women's clothing yielded enough to fully outfit a 3-room “boutique,” sorted, organized, and sized thanks to the help of volunteers from BWS parent affinity group, El Nido and female Veterans received makeovers courtesy of Beauty Bus, a non-profit organization founded by BWS alum and current parent, Wendy Levine. Every building on the VA campus literally hummed as hundreds of people got help that they desperately needed.

Given the rather chaotic nature of the event and the wide array of personalities in attendance, volunteers will surely be able to swap a range of interesting stories from the day. We also know, though, that our school was truly instrumental in making a difference by helping hundreds of people get help with housing, receive medical and legal attention, eat one (or more) hot meal(s), get new clothes, and feel cared for and valued—a small thing to offer given their service to our country. To get a better sense of the Stand Down, please enjoy these photos and this video.

Have a great weekend...enjoying both home and family.

Vision in Action

January 24, 2018

by Dr. Mike Riera, Head of School

Over the years I have watched our annual Veterans Day Assembly grow into a tradition valued by Veterans and students alike. This year's assembly was every bit in line with past assemblies and was the exact right balance of honoring, inspiration, and art. It was also an example of our vision statement in action.

In the just over 50-minute assembly, there was a color guard salute, a couple of student speakers, one speech, and lots of art and music. Students began by honoring all the Veterans present as well as all Veterans in general, past and present. Taps was played on two trumpets in honor of those who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. The proverbial stage was set.

Portraits of some of the Vets in attendance, as well as their biographies, were displayed at the front of the assembly—portraits drawn and biographies written by our students. A special Wall of Honor was decorated with the photos and names of some Vets affiliated with Brentwood School, from relatives to employees. These two displays provided an art gallery effect as attendees milled about both, taking in the insightful words and beautiful art work.

The keynote speech was delivered by Jason H.—a BWS parent who served in the military for more than eight years. His message was clear, emotional, and beautiful. My takeaway was that there is a price for freedom, and that price is service. By sharing his perspective as a Veteran with the audience, Jason opened more than a few eyes. A message that resonated strongly was the notion that soldiers don't fight because they hate the enemy, but rather because they love the freedom and life choices afforded us as Americans - they fight to preserve our way of life. And he ended with some practical advice for everyone silently wondering, "What can I do for the vets?" He suggested that the next time you see a Vet, approach them, look them in the eyes, and thank them for serving.

A short Q & A followed, including the Colin Kaepernick question, and all were answered with honesty. The last question, "How do you deal with the fact that some of those that fought next to you died in battle?" This was a moment. Silence, long silence. Then Jason responded that that is something that he lives with everyday, which is important, as it helps the soldier's service live on in his actions. That sentiment lingered in the air as the Madrigal singers came up to perform a spectacular version of One Day.

Listening to their voices and feeling the free flow of emotions in myself, I looked around the room. Many eyes were glistening with tears, some heads were bowed, many more were lifted with pride. Then it struck me that the art in this assembly—portraits, biographies, photos, trumpets, and singing—gave us the space to feel and process our full range of emotions. That is, we were moved by the event—and Jason's words in particular—and the art allowed those emotions to stay in motion and transform themselves into unexpected insights and thoughts.

As most everybody knows, our institutional vision is the essential integration of the three excellences: academic excellence, emotional intelligence, and character development. This assembly, in my mind, was a wonderful example of this essential integration in action.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Honoring Lincoln's Birthday with Veterans

by Erik Becker, Middle School Teacher

February 26, 2018

Brentwood School's 8th Grade participated in the 26th annual Abraham Lincoln Remembrance Day, held on Monday at the Los Angeles National Cemetery in Westwood. The ceremony featured a variety of songs provided by American veterans as well as by Brentwood's senior choir ensemble, The Madrigals, who performed stirring renditions of John Lennon's "Imagine" and "Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story" from the musical Hamilton. The ceremony's climax was a recitation by actor Kevin Dobson of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. With the now well-known phrase "Four score and seven years ago," Lincoln reminded his audience, as well as Monday's assembled crowd, of the Founding Fathers' vision, which established a nation that was "dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." After the program, the 8th graders enjoyed a picnic lunch and birthday cake to celebrate the 209th anniversary of the birth of the 16th President.

James Hughes, Upper School Service Learning Director, had this to say about the experience of the 11th Grade students from Mr. Koransky and Ms. McKellar's US History classes, who also attended the event:

"Vietnam Veteran and Chaplain Dov Cohen, who organized the event and gave the opening invocation, commented on how wonderful it was to have Brentwood students both attend and contribute to the program in honor of Lincoln, and he expressed his hope that the students would return for future civic engagement programming at the VA in the future."

More Than A Token of Appreciation: Art Students Honor Veterans at the VA

February 23, 2018

by James Hughes, Director of Service Learning, Upper School

Last Thursday, I traveled with students in Ms. Kate Savage's Drawing & Composition class to The Veterans Home of California to present the portraits and biographies of a dozen veterans who participated in an interdisciplinary service learning project. Last fall, students in Ms. Savage's art class partnered with students in Dr. Zusky's Literature of War and Conflict elective to sketch and interview these veterans of our nation's armed forces. Veteran participants from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War were among those on hand at Thursday's lunch-time reception, some seeing and reacting to their finished portraits and biographies for the first time. As a small crowd of veterans, veteran family members and VA staff assembled in the lobby, the students took turns honoring each participating veteran by presenting their framed portrait and reading from their biography. Fellow veterans were as engaged as the students to hear the various stories and exploits of those honored, some biographies recounting the successes and challenges of military service while others highlighted the veterans' post-war careers and family life. "Just seeing the veterans' faces and how happy and appreciative they all were was a real highlight," remarked junior Sydney L. "And being able to incorporate their lives into something we enjoy doing, and as part of class, was really special." Recognition and appreciation of this unique experience was expressed not only by the students, but by the veterans alike. Among the many words of gratitude, one Vietnam veteran, who was moved to tears at the end of the reception, addressed the students on behalf of those present: "You don't know how much this means to all of us to be honored in this way," he told the students. "Thank you!"

Now in its fifth year, the Veteran Portrait and Biography Project has grown in scope and impact to include students in AP Art and Advanced Photography and has touched the lives of over a hundred VA residents at The Veterans Home of California, The Home for Heroes and New Directions for Veterans. The impact of such a project was indeed palpable to all in attendance on Thursday. As Director of Service Learning, I have been honored to help design and facilitate this project, and proud to see how our students have embraced the opportunity with increasing thoughtfulness, skill and enthusiasm over the years. Junior Isabella C., who participated in the project for a second year in a row, characterized best the spirit of this unique project: "When you draw anyone's image it's a token of appreciation, but the fact that it's a veteran makes it that much more rewarding because it's a population of people who have done so much for our country, but yet are so often overlooked. So, I feel like it's a small way to show them that we are keeping them in mind."

El Nido Volunteers at the VA

April 20, 2018

On Sunday, April 15, several members of El Nido volunteered at the Big Sunday Veterans Dinner event. When we arrived, there was a lively crowd of volunteers and Veterans from different cities, including San Diego. We sat together and wrote letters to soldiers and spoke with the Veterans. They were born in many states around the US, and each one had a story more compelling than the other. Afterwards, a Veteran singing group from New Directions for Veterans performed an a capella rendition of the National Anthem, and the Vets, advanced in age, slowly stood up and took their hats off; it was touching to see and important to remember—what these men and women fought so hard for.

Then came dinner time. All hands on deck, working side by side with other volunteers, we served a delicious dinner to the Veterans and volunteers. There were several Middle School students present, and with each bread roll served, they said: “Thank you for your service.” Such a touching gesture. More music, followed by trivial pursuit games and a lot of laughter, and then clean up! It was a wonderful afternoon, and whenever asked where we came from, we proudly replied: “El Nido, Brentwood School!!”

Calligrams for Veterans

October 31, 2018

by Rebecca Dame-Seidler, Middle School Art Teacher

My Middle School students entered the arts classroom recently and were met with the following prompts: How would you define the term Veteran? Why do we honor Veterans? And, do you have any personal connections to a Veteran?

At first, the topic of discussion seemed unconventional, even out of place in the art room. A few students commented, “Are we in art class or American Government?” The students quickly opened up and willingly shared stories about relatives and family friends who were members of the military. Hooking them further, the next question lit up the screen, “Pictures are worth a thousand words, but what if those words were used to create a picture?” The students were introduced to an old art technique known as “calligrams”—images composed of written words that relate to the image being created. Quickly, the students realized their project challenge would be to honor a past or current Veteran by creating a calligram. They researched the national archives and current Veteran stories in search of an image or story that captivated their interests. My initial idea was to have students focus on portrait drawing but, to my delight, the students each interpreted the project challenge in different ways. One piece honors a young man who kept track of time by writing the months of the year on his helmet. Another shows a WWII Veteran in action, climbing a rope that was attached to a blimp after having completed a mission. Others presented Veteran mechanics working on planes and another displayed a soldier guarding a fleet of planes. One emphasized the brutal reality of the effects of war, displaying a three word sentence, “War is Hell.”

Another student recalled reading a book about a Vietnamese family during the war and decided to focus on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. designed by the artist, Maya Lin. This piece honors both the artist of the Vietnam Memorial, and the names of the soldiers on the wall. At first glance, the artwork appears to be a portrait of Maya Lin, but there is an artistic twist, Lin’s shadow reflected on the Vietnam wall, depicts a soldier. The students will complete the lesson with a discussion question: “If pictures are worth a thousand words, how much is a soldier’s sacrifice worth to you?”

These will be finished and displayed at our Veteran’s Day Assembly this coming November. View a gallery of calligrams [here](#).

BWS MAGAZINE ARTICLES

VA PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

BY THE NUMBERS
VA Engagement
(SINCE NOVEMBER 2016)

1,736

Veterans' Center for Recreation and Education (VCRE) participants

1,650

VCRE Access Hours

329

Veterans who attended events at Brentwood School

2,894

Student hours spent on Veteran-centric service activities



PHOTO BY KYLE HAUSMANN-STOKES, U.S. ARMY COMBAT VETERAN

Veterans from far and wide, like this World War II Gunner, came to the annual West LA VA Stand Down on October 27 to receive services, food, clothing, and support from community partners. Brentwood School was an official VA Community Partner and Brentwood School volunteers assisted in many ways at the event.

In addition to the statistics above, Brentwood School has increased engagement and enriched its partnership with the West LA VA in the past year by hosting several events on and off campus. The Veterans Day of Beauty on August 1, in collaboration with the Beauty Bus Foundation and Blushington, gave over 25 Veterans a well-deserved day of pampering to make them feel beautiful inside and out. Earlier in the summer, Veterans living at the West LA VA campus were treated to an exclusive meet and greet breakfast with NFL football players who were participating in our annual NFL Fantasy Football Camp during Summer at Brentwood. For the Stand Down this year, Brentwood employees and parents collected items for a women's clothing boutique, enough to fill three rooms, and Brentwood School just provided Thanksgiving meals for over 100 Veterans with proceeds from the Thanksgiving Food Drive. ■

ART + COMMUNITY SERVICE =

The 6th Grade Tile Mural Project

by **Edy Levin**, Lower School Art Teacher

The Lower School Art Department loves to collaborate with Service Learning Coordinator Lisa Glick, especially for the annual 6th Grade project. This year, we focused on something that would be meaningful to Veterans living in facilities at the West LA VA. After Robin, Lisa, and I visited the VA, we decided that the outdoor spaces desperately needed beautification. We chose glazed tiles for a mural, thinking they might last longer than painted surfaces. Using our overall measurement of an outdoor/courtyard wall space, we divided the image that focused on nature and was uplifting with bird imagery into enough tile sections so that each 6th grader could paint a tile. They all loved working in this medium and were excited to see all of the tiles put together and on display at the All-School Art Show. Shortly after, it was permanently installed at the VA with the help of our maintenance crew. ■



Students at the All-School Art Show look for their tile to show their friends before the mural is permanently installed at the VA.



The Veteran Services and Activities Council directly serves Veterans in Los Angeles through programs like the Stand Down and various clothing and food drives throughout the year.

The Veteran Services and Activities Council



As part of the Department of Veterans Affairs Draft Master Plan, the Veteran Services and Activities Council was created to formalize the relationships and partnerships between the West LA Medical Center Campus and outside Veteran support organizations, such as Brentwood

School. As stated in their mission, "the Services Council ensures that the services and activities on the VA West Los Angeles Medical Center Campus are reflective of the desires of Veterans and supports the needs of Veterans living on Campus and participating in VA homeless programs throughout the community. It serves as a support and convening mechanism between VA and community partners to help manifest the organization-wide cultural transformation to personalized, proactive, patient-driven care that assists Veterans in receiving services and improving their quality of life." The Services Council makes sure that all activities and services provided by its members are well advertised and attended, supports a variety of programming, and safeguards against redundancy of programming and services.

Brentwood School has been an active participant on the Council since its inception. Assistant Head of School Gennifer Yoshimaru represents the school at regular meetings to report on the many ways Brentwood is fulfilling its role as a partner to WLA VA programs through a wide array of opportunities and activities offered as part of the Veterans Center for Recreation and Education (VCRE) at Brentwood School.

To receive a copy of the Veteran Services and Activities Council "Year in Review" report and future spotlights of member organizations, please contact Gennifer Yoshimaru at gyoshimaru@bws-campus.com. ■



VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

Images, November 2017 - October 2018

Stand Down 2018



Stand Down 2018



VA Scholarships for Summer at Brentwood 2018



Heroes Garden



Japanese Garden Clean-Up



Veteran Day of Beauty



Service Learning Trips: Operation Gratitude



Trip to Jewish Home for Letterwriting/Toiletry Packages to Veterans



Veterans Day Assembly and Portrait Project



Lower School Tile Mural Project



Lincoln Day Remembrance



Thanksgiving Food Drive and Dinner Service to Building 209



Middle School Sock Drive



K-12 Toiletry Drive

